

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-07 IO-13 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 AGRE-00 ACDA-07 DOTE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 CG-00 FEA-01 OIC-02 /125 W
-----101148Z 100578 /22

R 100701Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9952
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1688

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XV, TGEN, PL, AS
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: POLISH STATUS

REF: STATE 052403

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION ON MARCH 9 ON ANTARCTIC MATTERS (REPORTED DEPARTMENT AND LONDON IN SEPTTEL), M.J. MCKEOWN, DIRECTOR, LOS/ANTARCTICA SECTION, DFA MENTIONED TO EMBOFF THAT GOA POSITION FAVORABLE TO POLISH ACCESSION TO CONSULTATIVE STATUS. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL EMBOFF HAD FURTHER BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH MCKEOWN TO INFORM HIM OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION, PER PARA 4 OF REFTEL.

2. GOA IN FAVOR GRATING POLAND CONSULTATIVE STATUS BOTH AT MARCH PREPCOM IF THEY SHOULD APPLY AND CERTAINLY IN SEPTEMBER IXTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING. GOA THINKS IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT CONSULTATIVE PARTIES SHOULD MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR
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THE BASIS ON WHICH POLISH ACCESSION GRANTED AND THAT THIS SHOULD GIVE EMPHASIS TO TOTALITY OF POLISH ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY ITS LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES. GOA INCLINED TAKE POSITION THAT REFERENCE TO "DISPATCH OF A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION" REFERS TO DISPATCH OF SUCH AN EXPEDITION TO CONTINENTAL ANTARCTICA AND NOT RPT NOT ANTARCTIC WATERS. NEVERTHELESS, BY STRESSING TOTALITY FACTOR, TREATY MEMBERS

WILL BE FREE TO DECIDE ON FUTURE APPLICATIONS ON A CASEY BY CASE AND WOULD BE FREE TO ACT FAVORABLY IN EVENT THEY DESIRED ADMIT MEMBER UNDERTAKING ONLY MARINE EXPEDITION.

3. MCKEOWN SAID GOA OF OPINION THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE PRESENT CONSULTATIVE MEMBERS SHOULD ISSUE A FORMAL INVITATION TO POLAND TO ASSUME CONSULTATIVE STATUS RATHER MERELY ACCEDE TO POLISH APPLICATION. MCKEOWN SAID THAT IN GOA OPINION WHOLE QUESTION AS TO HOW A NATION ASSUMED CONSULTATIVE STATUS NOT VERY CLEAR IN TREATY AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL PRECEDENT FOR PRESENT MEMBERS OF GROUP TO TAKE INITIATIVE. MCKEOWN SAID DFA HAD CABLED LONDON TO SUGGEST THAT AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION DISCUSS WITH HEAP POSSIBLE WAYS AND MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS END. CABLE SENT INFO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

4. WHEN EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT ARGENTINA AND CHILE MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE POLISH PARTICIPATION, MCKEOWN SAID HE NOT SURPRISED. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT DFA WOULD PROBABLY SEND CABLES TO THEIR MISSIONS IN BUENOS AIRES AND SANTIAGO DIRECTING THEM TO DISCREETLY "LEAN ON" ARGENTINEANS AND CHILEANS IN EFFORT TO GET THEM TO WITHDRAW THEIR OBJECTIONS. UPON HEARING THIS, EMBOFF VOLUNTEERED TALKING POINTS OUTLINED IN PARA 5 OF REFTTEL, FOR WHICH MCKEOWN GRATEFUL. PERCIVAL

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